

**TOWN OF CANTON
COLLINSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

February 11, 2010

Sally Rieger
Wild & Scenic Study Chair
c/o FRWA
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Subject: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study

Ms Rieger:

The members of the Collinsville Historic District Commission unanimously endorse the proposal to designate the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic Area.

We understand that this designation would call for an exemption for the area between with the Nepaug Reservoir outflow and the lower dam in Burlington, in order to facilitate its possible resurrection as a source for hydroelectric power generation. We endorse this exemption as well.

We also understand that, due to the above exemption, a small discontinuous portion of the proposed area would lie between the current downstream end of the existing Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Area near the New Hartford/Canton line, and the Nepaug Reservoir outflow. We endorse the idea of extending the designated Upper Farmington area to include that portion of the proposed study area.

Sincerely,

David Leff
Chairman

Kent McCoy
Vice-Chairman

Kathleen Woolam
Secretary/Commissioner

Eric Jackson
Commissioner

Walter Kendra
Commissioner

Sylvia Cansela
Alternate Commissioner

Mary Ellen Cosker
Alternate Commissioner

Stephen
Alternate



Hartland Historical Society, Inc
PO Box 221
East Hartland, CT 06027
(860)413-9826

July 30, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Hartland Historical Society to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on July 1, 2009.

The Hartland Historical Society shares the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. A portion of the West Branch of Salmon Brook runs through the Hartland and is a valuable educational and cultural resource for us. We understand that Hartland could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the stream's water quality so it can continue to be an outstanding resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Maureen H. Watson – President
Hartland Historical Society



1732
Abijah Rowe House

Salmon Brook Historical Society

June 6, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Salmon Brook Historical Society in Granby to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Society's board of directors at their meeting on May 24.

We strongly support this designation because of our overall interest in resource protection and a more particular interest in the protection of Salmon Brook, which has been of historical importance to our community.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Schrepf, President
Salmon Brook Historical Society

208 Salmon



TARIFFVILLE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 333
Tariffville, CT 06081-0333
Tel: 860-651-3802
Fax: 860-651-3802
www.tariffville.org

November 13, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

It gives the Board of Directors of the Tariffville Village Association great pleasure to strongly endorse the Wild & Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The Tariffville section of Simsbury is closely bonded with the Farmington River. The well-being of all of the river's outstanding resource values directly affects all of our citizens. Protection and enhancement of these resource values is also a goal of our community. We all benefit from the knowledge and protection of the geology, archeology, cultural landscape, water quality, biodiversity, and recreation value of the river.

This endorsement was agreed upon by a unanimous vote of the Tariffville Village Association Board of Directors on November 12, 2009.

Sincerely,

Chet Matczak, President
Tariffville Village Association

Tariffville Village Association: www.tariffville.org
President: Chet Matczak; Vice Presidents: Bryan West, John Nagy; Secretary: Joan Nagy; Treasurer: Terry Salts
Committee Chairs: Planting and Design: Frank Haviland; Membership: Chet and Laurie Matczak;
Fund Raising: John Nagy; Historic Village District: Jane Fenton; School & Public Safety: Amy Salts;
Recreation: Bryan West; Economic Development: Jennie Winiarski; Web Site: Scott Glazier

Salmon Brook Watershed Association

January 10, 2010

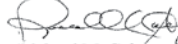
Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Committee,

On behalf of the *Salmon Brook Watershed Association*, I am writing to indicate our enthusiastic support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. At recent meetings, the board has heard presentations, discussed and endorsed this important designation.

As the principal organization in Granby charged with various roles regarding our forty thousand acre watershed, *Salmon Brook Watershed Association* sees the designation as an extremely important and timely undertaking. The Salmon Brooks which course through the eastern and western portions of Granby are increasingly threatened with the impacts of residential growth. Their current excellent ecological health is in part due to a good public awareness of their vulnerability and the consequent sensible measures in place to protect that health. Designation as Wild & Scenic will significantly increase and enhance the continuation of good ecological practices for decades to come. All of us look forward to the completion of the study and the much deserved designation.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Caley
President, SBWA



December 20, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070


Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association (FVVA), to show our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by a vote of the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association via e-mail on December 16th and 17th.

FVVA's mission is to enhance economic vitality within the Farmington Valley and promote the valley to residents and visitors. Our commitment to recognize, protect, and promote the cultural, historical, and recreational sites in the area meld completely with the goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. The Farmington River is one of the valley's treasures that we encourage residents and visitors to take advantage of. The distinction will help enhance economic vitality and bring more tourists into our region.

We commend your tireless efforts as part of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. The designation will help preserve and maintain the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook and may provide funding to help protect it for years to come.

Sincerely,



Nancy Weiner-Anstey
Executive Director, FVVA

FARMINGTON VALLEY VISITORS ASSOCIATION
33 East Main Street PO Box 1491 Avon, CT 06001
860.676.8878 1-800-4-WELCOME (493-5266)
www.fvva.com fvva@snnet.net

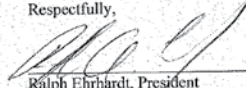
Avon Fish and Game Club
West Street
Hartland, CT 06065

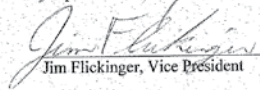
May 21, 2010

TO: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Per this letter, we the officers of the Avon Fish and Game Club of Hartland, Connecticut officially express our organization's support for National Park Service designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as "Wild and Scenic."

Respectfully,


Ralph Ehrhardt, President


Jim Flickinger, Vice President


Fran Aiello, Treasurer


Steve Scanlon Secretary



American Rivers
Thriving By Nature

January 14, 2010

Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger,

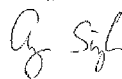
I am writing to express American Rivers' strong support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The Farmington River is a fantastic example of all that a federal Wild & Scenic River designation seeks to highlight. The increased protection and recognition for the river will help to highlight the great recreational opportunities, biological diversity and cultural resources on this beautiful and scenic river and one of its most important tributaries.

We support the designation, as well as the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee's decision to limit the Rainbow Dam exclusion to a distance shortly below the end of the tailrace. Extending the exclusion farther downstream is unnecessary given the current use of that section of the river and its value as fish habitat: extending the exclusion limits the protection for the river.

American Rivers has been pleased to provide technical assistance to the Spoonville Dam removal project in the Tariffville Gorge on the lower Farmington. Removal of this breached concrete dam will further improve recreational opportunities on this section of the river, extending a whitewater run and removing a significant safety hazard for novice boaters and swimmers. The dam removal is supported by the community and is in keeping with the goals of the Wild & Scenic designation to protect the recreational and scenic values of the river, while making the river more accessible to the public.

American Rivers is the leading national organization standing up for healthy rivers so communities can thrive. American Rivers protects and restores America's rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature. Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 65,000 members and supporters nationwide. We are a proud supporter of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers and hope to see the miles of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook added to the system.

Sincerely,



Amy Singler
Associate Director, American Rivers River Restoration Program
American Rivers
413-584-2183

25 Main St, Suite 220
Northampton, MA 01060

p. 413.584.2183 www.americanrivers.org



Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

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Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
Chairman Sally Rieger &
Study Coordinator Joyce Kennedy Raymes

December 3, 2010

Dear Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

I write to express the enthusiastic support of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut for Wild and Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Rivers Alliance was founded in Collinsville on the Farmington River, and we know the river and its communities well. In our Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program, funded by the EPA through the CT Department of Environmental Protection, one of our early grants went to assist in the startup of the Salmon Brook Watershed Association.

People in the Farmington River watershed did a great favor to their river and all the rivers in the state when they sought and won Wild and Scenic designation for the Upper River. Obtaining the same status for the Lower River will make the earlier designation even more valuable.

Rivers Alliance regrets any exclusion from the designated segment but respects the decision of the Committee to accommodate potential future needs of Stanley Black & Decker with respect to acquiring a FERC license for their hydropower facility. But we strongly recommend ending the exclusion shortly below the tailrace at the Rainbow Dam. A lengthier exclusion would undermine the integrity of the program.

Our general position on hydropower projects is that maximum benefits come from combining gains via improved efficiency at existing sites with provisions to enhance the health of affected rivers. We follow the standards of the Low-Impact Hydropower Institute. With respect to the Collinsville dams, we have, since the 1990s, advocated for removal or breaching of the small, lower dam in exchange for high-quality, low-impact hydropower generation at the large, upper dam.


7 West St., Suite 33, P.O. Box 1797, Litchfield, CT 06759 860-361-9349 FAX: 860-361-9341
email: rivers@riversalliance.org website: http://www.riversalliance.org

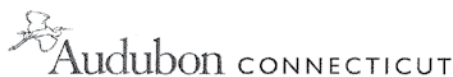
The Farmington River is an extraordinary example of a multiple-use river that actually richly supports its existing and designated uses. It is by many measures the most popular river in the state for fishing and other forms of recreation, and thus is a valuable economic asset. The watershed is a diverse habitat region.

Wild & Scenic designation will help preserve the balance of uses on the river, and save the waterway for the enjoyment and health of future generations. The designation will reflect the longstanding pride of the community in this river, and its strong support for river protection expressed through organizations such as the Farmington River Watershed Association and, of course, the Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee. I look forward to being able to tell people around the state to look to the Upper and Lower Farmington River for models of how a river should be managed.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions any time.

Sincerely,


Margaret Miner,
Executive Director



RESOLUTION

Whereas, Audubon Connecticut shares the conservation and land use goals of the Federal Wild & Scenic River Act, which aims to protect and preserve pristine water courses in America; and

Whereas, Audubon Connecticut shares the conservation and land use goals of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Study Committee; and

Whereas, if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook receive Wild & Scenic River designation by the United States government, then the towns along the shores of the River and Brook will be eligible to receive funding and technical assistance to protect the conservation values and water quality of the River and Brook; and

Whereas, there is substantial support for the designation from the Greenwich Study Committee of the Town of Bloomfield, the Holcomb Farm board of directors, and Keep The Woods (local conservation organization); and

Whereas, the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are important habitats for birds and other wildlife, which habitats are eligible to be designated by Audubon as Important Bird Areas; and

Whereas, the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook about the Northwest Park and Station 43 Important Bird Areas.

Now therefore, Audubon Connecticut hereby endorses the effort of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Study Committee to secure the designation of the subject watercourses as Wild and Scenic.



**Farmington Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited**
The Leader In Coldwater Fisheries Conservation

February 8, 2011

Ms. Joyce Kennedy Raymes and Ms. Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Joyce and Sally:

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington River Chapter of Trout Unlimited in support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 21, 2010.

Trout Unlimited's mission is to preserve, protect and restore cold water resources, and our chapter region is fortunate to encompass both streams. By virtue of being bottom fed from a flood control dam and without significant industrial, agricultural or residential pollution problems, the Farmington River is now the premier year-round trout stream in Connecticut. We have focused a portion of our efforts on helping to maintain the high quality of both the Farmington River and Salmon Brook for many years. Our efforts benefit not only anglers but also other recreational users and state residents who only picnic alongside these waters. Both streams represent valuable educational and recreational assets, and we applaud the efforts of a number of involved groups such as the Farmington River Watershed Association who help us maintain these magnificent resources.

As river stewards, we encourage the designation of these bodies as Wild and Scenic which will benefit all the communities surrounding the two streams as well as state residents who use them for recreational purposes. As a conservation organization with an eye toward the future, it is appropriate that we lend our support to efforts to protect and enhance these bodies of water.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William F. Case, President
Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

December 15, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of Holcomb Farm to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 15, 2009.

Holcomb Farm shares the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. A portion of the West Branch of Salmon Brook runs through the farm and is a valuable educational and recreational resource for us. We understand that the farm could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the stream's water quality so it can continue to be an outstanding resource for generations to come.

As a facility owned by the town of Granby, we hope that the designation will be achieved for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Lukingbeal, President
Holcomb Farm Board of Directors



Roaring Brook Nature Center

70 Gracey Road - Canton, CT 06019 - 860.693.0263 - Fax 860.693.0264
www.roaringbrook.org

December 14, 2009

Sally Rieger
Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of Roaring Brook Nature Center to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

As director of Roaring Brook Nature Center since 1975, I have taken countless numbers of students and adults on trips throughout this watershed and I recognize its importance on so many levels. For many years we have offered a popular summer program for students entitled "Farmington River Ramblin.'" The program focuses on the concept of "multi-use," from the obvious recreational usage to providing energy through hydropower to serving as habitat for all manner of wildlife from bald eagles to rare and endangered species of freshwater mussels. The River is also important for its place in Connecticut history as the site of many well-known industrial endeavors from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Salmon Brook, a major tributary of the Farmington River, is of value in its own right. I can recall the excitement of a group of students when they discovered an impressive population of Superb Jewelwing (*Calopteryx amata*), an uncommon damselfly, along the brook in Granby. This was a valuable educational experience for the students as well as one of value for those researchers who are studying distribution of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Connecticut.

If I may be of further service in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan, Director
Roaring Brook Nature Center

NEW ENGLAND WHITewater TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS TARIFFVILLE GORGE

March 11, 2010

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Wild and Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Rivers

The organizing committee for the New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships expresses its strong support for Wild and Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Rivers. The Triple Crown's inaugural event was in April 2009, returning the highest caliber paddling competition to Tariffville Gorge. In this first year, we were able to attract World Champions, current and former U.S. Team members, and Olympians to the area. Historically, the Tariffville Gorge is well known for slalom racing and the past site of Olympic Trial Qualifier races.

The Tariffville gorge is a unique stretch of natural whitewater on the Farmington River. Its character and features make it a perfect site for all styles of canoeing and kayaking. Not just for competition, this section of the Farmington River is one of the best year-round whitewater paddling sites in all of the northeastern U.S.

The Farmington River from Collinsville and into Farmington is also popular for whitewater canoeing and kayaking. Paddlers from all over Connecticut and beyond frequently enjoy this stretch of the river. It's an especially good section for advanced beginner and intermediate boaters to hone their skills. The New England Slalom Series holds an event on the Punchbrook/Crystal Rapids section of the Farmington every spring.

The lower Farmington River is an exceptional whitewater resource. The New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships strongly support the Wild and Scenic Designation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Please feel free to contact me at (860) 977-4213 or at ajkuhlberg@mac.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kuhlberg
Event Chairman
New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships

WWW.TVILLETTRIPLECROWN.COM

December 14, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Community Farm of Simsbury to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the executive body of the organization at their meeting on December 14, 2009.

The Community Farm of Simsbury's mission includes preservation of a resource through environmentally sound and sustainable practices. This similar mission raises our interest in protection of this, the Farmington River as an outstanding resource. The river and its tributary abuts the farm. This designation in addition to bringing local prestige could bring potential funding for the CFS. The river and stream conservation is an important educational goal of the CFS.

Sincerely,



Diane G. Nash, Secretary
Community Farm of Simsbury, Inc.



January 13, 2010

Ms. Sally Reiger and Ms. Joyce Kennedy-Raymes
Lower Farmington River / Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of the McLean Game Refuge and the entire McLean organization to indicate enthusiastic support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook. It is our collective hope that achieving this designation will help protect and preserve the outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values associated with these waterways.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Paine, Director
McLean Game Refuge

WADE'S FARMS

FARM FRESH PRODUCE



February 22, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild & Scenic Study Committee

749 Hopmeadow St.,

Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

My family and I are pleased to write a letter in support of the Wild and Scenic designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Rivers.

Most of the Connecticut grown vegetables and feed corn we harvest are grown in the fertile floodplains of the Farmington River in Simsbury. The locally grown vegetables and corn are fresher, taste better, contain more vitamins and minerals, and are brought only a short distance to our store with minimal transportation costs.

Protection of all the river's resources is important for this excellent, tillable land's ability to produce crops for centuries to come. All the local farms and agricultural soils will benefit from this designation.

Best Wishes,

Ronald F. Wade, President

WADE'S FARMS

Farm Fresh Produce

498 Simsbury Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

October 22, 2010

Re: **Municipal Plan & Regulation Review**
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the Hartland Wetlands Commission (HWC), I am currently participating in the process of revising the Wetlands Regulations of the Town of Hartland. On the verge of completion, this process has been a lengthy one, as the regulations had not been amended for many years. The HWC resolved to comprehensively review and assess each section of the regulations, and to update the document where required to better reflect Hartland's evolving commitment to the preservation of wetlands and watercourses.

The HWC is composed of volunteers, and Hartland's municipal government has limited staff resources. Consequently, to guide us through the regulation update process, we have relied on our own personal research, the expertise of our Wetlands Enforcement Officer, and outside expertise where we can find it.

It has been fortuitous that the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee developed their "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review" at the very time that the HWC was in need of such a review of the land use regulations of nearby towns. With this guide at hand, the HWC has been able to compare our water-related regulatory measures with those of Granby, Simsbury and seven other nearby towns that share the same watershed system with Hartland! Partly as a result of this increased awareness of what adjacent municipalities are doing to protect their wetlands and watercourses, the HWC is about to implement increases in our upland review buffer area as well as in our application fee structure. In addition, we shall be adding sections to accommodate conservation easements and timber harvest notifications.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the HWC, to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee for producing the "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review". The Committee's work has made clear to me the importance of establishing a coordinated regional effort to protect the water resources of this lovely part of the world for the flora and fauna, including humans, who depend upon it.

Sincerely,

Hank Prussing

Member, Hartland Wetlands Commission
Hartland, Connecticut 06027

Vincent L. Bishop
14 Main St. Ext.
Tariffville, Ct. 06081

Sally Reiger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, Ct. 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing in support of the wild and scenic designation of the Farmington River/Salmon Brook area.

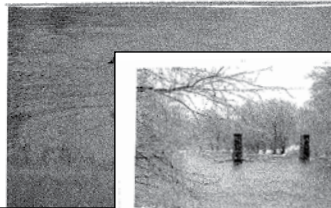
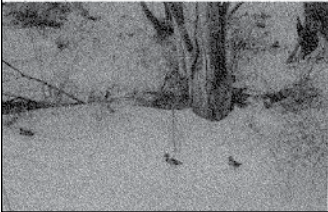
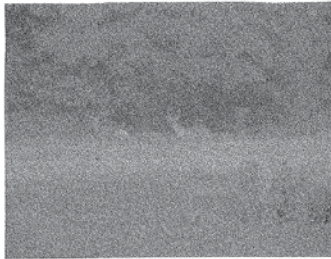
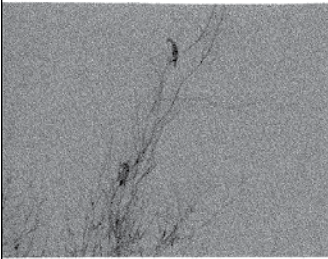
As property Manager/caretaker of Folly Farm in Simsbury, it has been my privilege to experience one of the oxbows and part of the river almost daily. The diversity of the wildlife, both flora and Fauna is incredible, and being able to observe nature in this setting is amazing.

As a resident of riverfront property, and a kayaker fisherman, I appreciate the recreational aspect of the area as well, and am able, almost daily in season to observe kayakers and fishermen utilizing and enjoying the lower regions of the river.

We must do all we can to protect and preserve this area so that we and future generations can enjoy it.

Sincerely,


Vincent L. Bishop



February 10, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

As a riparian owner along the banks of the Farmington River just a short distance from where the Salmon Brook enters the Farmington, my support for the Wild and Scenic Designation of these two remarkable rivers is strong.

The cultural, historical, biological, recreational, archeological, geological wonders are all before my eyes on a daily basis. The photos at the top of the letter are, from left to right, the view to the North, the view straight across and the view to the South of the Farmington River from my home. The flowing waters are a part of my daily life. I am privileged to observe the river at will thru all the seasons, and to explore, photograph, fish, kayak, and swim in its waters. We must take all possible measures to protect and enhance these beautiful natural resources forever. I am so happy to help in the quest for Wild and Scenic Designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook River with this letter of endorsement.

Sincerely,


Wanda H. Colman

14 Main St. Extension, Tariffville, CT 06081

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Andrew Kramonen	Brighton, MA, USA
	Roger Brown	Durango, CO, USA
	Jack Nelson	New Hartford, CT
	Al Blanchard	W Simsbury, CT
	Lucy Lindley	N Granby, CT
	MCKEN PIST	WINDSTED, CT
	Mark Wadsworth	Newington, MA
	Emily Jackson	Rock Island, TN
	Tyler Bogue	Amherst, MA
	Evan Uthas	Annapolis, MD
	Tyler Uthas	Berksmontown, MD
	Taylor Kramer	East Granby, CT, USA
	Melissa Salls	Tariffville, CT 06081
	Emily Tillman	Middlebury, VT 05753
	Kenneth Pearson	Middletown, CT 06450
	Wade Raymond	Windsor, CT USA
	Todd Seabold	Woodstock, CT USA
	T. J. Breen	Worcester, CT
	Nancy Johnson	New Hartford, CT
	Mary Ann Dubie	Farmington, CT 06031
	Mark Trahan	Worcester, MA, USA

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Christopher Fisher	East Granby, CT USA
	Dan Bauman	New Britain, CT USA
	Martin Withman	West Hartford, CT USA
	Noah Helms	Colchester, CT USA
	Sandra Pratt	Glocester, RI USA
	David Su	Amherst, MA, USA
	Jacqueline A. Smith	Bristol, CT USA
	Bill Warren	Springfield, MA, USA
	Jeanmarie Miller	Pleasant Valley, CT USA
	Eric C. DeCap	Simsbury, CT 06070
	Kara Klerkner	Pottsville, PA USA
	Jeff Beland	Deerfield, MA
	Arthur Wagoner	Morris, CT 06861
	Katrina Vanhise	Ottawa, ON Canada
	Glenn Pratt	Colchester, ME
	Dane Jackson	Rock Island, IN
	Michael Portar	Chicheston, MA
	Brian Kirkwood	Leicester, MA
	Patrick J. Cleary	St Albans Bay, VT
	Bryan Kirk	FAYETTEVILLE, WV

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Andrew J. Fitchberg	Canter CT 06019
	Amy Grosche	Cheshire CT 06021
	Amy Grosche	Cheshire CT 06021
	Paula SAGE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108
	David SAGE	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108
	Nick Troutman	Rock Island, TN, US
	Jean-Etienne Trippin	Westport, CT, USA
	RICHARD S. TURNER	Bloomington, CT 06004
	Ann Valantine	Tauntonville CT 06081
	BRIAN CORPER	WINDSOR LOCKS CT 06096
	Steve L. Sawyer	S. Plainfield, RI 02879
	BRUCE DUMAS	Greenwich, MD 20874
	Pamela Malton	New York, NY 10128
	Greg Berkman	Rockville, MD 20853
	John Madon	Rockville, CT 06061
	Maria Whetler Anderson	Kingsley, MA 02349
	1st River Knolls	Avery, CT 06001
	Lee Whelan	Avery, CT 06001
	Allan French	Hartford, CT

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Sarah Gwin	Simsbury CT
	Merritt Gasho	Simsbury CT
	THOMAS A. GASHO	Simsbury, CT
	Susan Leung	Simsbury, CT
	William L. Hearn	Fitchburg, MA
	Virginia Gasho	Simsbury, CT
	Linda Schwedler	Hartford, CT
	Walter Brown	Suffield, CT
	Phil Brown	Suffield, CT
	IAN GERMAN	Saratoga, NY
	Robert Kowalski	East Hampton, MA
	Sally Peters	EAST HAMPTON, MA
	Shirley Mae New	Bloomfield, CT
	Paula Swistak	Avery, CT
	Ethan Kuzvat	Simsbury, CT
	Ari Kupiwin	Simsbury, CT
	Bob Beeman	East Hampton, CT
	ROBERT CONNOLLY	Carmel, NY
	Deborah Smith	Coventry, CT
	Jennifer Metzger	Bloomfield, CT

9



Please show your support for the lower Farmington /Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Designation by signing below.

We'll share this list with public officials whose support we need to make this Wild & Scenic designation a reality.

Name	Street Address/ or Affiliation	Town, State	Signature
Ian Clark	140 Kimberly Rd	East Granby CT	<i>Ian Clark</i>
Susan Dugan	1 Muirfield Ln	Avon, CT	<i>Susan Dugan</i>
AMIEE PETRAS	FRWA - SIMSBURY		<i>Amiee Petras</i>
Cynthia Briggs	27 Indian Hill Rd	Canton, CT	<i>Cynthia Briggs</i>
BEN COLMAN	37 TAMARA CIRCLE	AVON, CT	<i>Ben Colman</i>
Jacqueline Talbot	250 Washington Road Woodbury	Woodbury, CT	<i>Jacqueline Talbot</i>
CHRISTINA DAVIES	2 RIVER VIEW	Avon CT	<i>Christina Davies</i>
Jamie Foshburgh	National Bank Center	Danby, MA	<i>Jamie Foshburgh</i>
Heinz Rosenthal	43 Byron Dr.	Avon	<i>Heinz Rosenthal</i>
Jennifer Aldag	15 Kingsbridge	Avon	<i>Jennifer Aldag</i>
ALAN ALDAG	15 KINGSBRIDGE	Avon	<i>Alan Aldag</i>
Lisa Leoni	15 Avalon Dr.	Avon	<i>Lisa Leoni</i>
John P. King	13 Towpath Lane	Avon	<i>John P. King</i>
Terry Lee Wilson	64 Mainstem View Ave.	Avon	<i>Terry Lee Wilson</i>
Faul - Mary Lata	108 Woodgate Circle	Enfield, CT	<i>Faul - Mary Lata</i>
CANDICE CHIRAGOTIS	91 Cider Brook Road	Avon, CT	<i>Candice Chiragotis</i>
Babara Zukas	425 Denchiff Rd	Avon, CT	<i>Babara Zukas</i>

← !!
needs mailing / riverside prop. owner !!



April, 9, 2011

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally & Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of our business to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Our business recognizes the scenic and recreational value of the Lower Farmington River. Maintenance and improvement of the quality of the River and its surrounds has both direct and indirect economic benefits for our business.

Sincerely,

Signature: *Marc Lubetkin*

Printed Name Marc Lubetkin, Position: owner / mgt

Name of Business: Red Stone Pub

Appendix 4: The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Support of The Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Boundary Change

CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT POTENTIAL CHANGE IN THE BOUNDARY OF THE UPPER FARMINGTON WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

To: District Board

April 4, 2011

On August 26, 1994, the United States Congress designated a 14-mile segment of the Upper Farmington River as a "Wild and Scenic River" from the Goodwin Dam on the West Branch of the Farmington River to the Canton and New Hartford town line on the main stem of the river. The MDC voted to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Park Service, CT Department of Environmental Protection and the Farmington River Watershed Association for the management of the Wild and Scenic River including the establishment of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee.

In November 2006, the Congress authorized the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study to include the Farmington River from the Canton town line to the confluence with the Connecticut River in Windsor. According to the Wild and Scenic study staff, the Town of Canton has requested that the section of the Farmington River from the Canton Town Line to the confluence with the Nepaug River be included in the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic River rather than the Lower Farmington River segment which would start below the Collinsville Dam. The Farmington River Coordinating Committee has approved this proposed boundary change with the condition that MDC support this change. Additionally, the boundary change must be adopted by an act of Congress.

This boundary change would include the West Branch, East Branch and Nepaug Rivers; it would be consistent with MDC's management of the Farmington River and the management plan adopted under the Wild and Scenic designation. This will support the MDC position with regard to the proposed Department of Environmental Protection stream flow regulations that the Wild and Scenic Management Plan meets the intent of the proposed regulations and should be exempt from further control.

It is therefore recommended that:

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

April 4, 2011 ■ 66

Be It Resolved; that the District Board of the Metropolitan District supports the change in the boundary of the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic river, to be changed from the New Hartford/Canton town line to the confluence of the Nepaug River and Farmington River in Canton.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine C. Shaw
District Clerk

*On motion made by Commissioner Lupo and duly seconded,
the report was received and resolution adopted by majority
vote of those present.*

Commissioner Reichlin abstained.

Appendix 5: Wild and Scenic Study Outreach and Education Examples

NEWSLETTER

Fifth in a series of newsletters to keep the community informed about the Wild and Scenic Study process.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study



Inside this issue...

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Page 5
Meet the Committee Members

Crunch, Tear, and Scrape: Origins of A Wild and Scenic Landscape

In this, the fifth Wild & Scenic Study Committee newsletter, we are featuring Geology as an Outstanding Resource Value (orv) of the Study Area. Each of the previous newsletters focused on one of the four other orvs, Water Quality, Biodiversity, the Cultural Landscape and Recreation. Unlike the other orvs, which we have studied as river and brook corridor resources, the Geology orv encompasses the whole area of the ten Study Area towns, Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor.

The geologic history of the Wild & Scenic Study Area has given it a varied landscape. The westernmost part of the Study Area is upland - hilly terrain with rocky soil. By contrast, Farmington, Avon and Simsbury, East Granby, Bloomfield and Windsor have extensive flat areas with good to excellent farmland soils.



These areas are punctuated by the familiar traprock ridges with their cliffs, and these are not the only rugged areas in our towns. Other examples are the Gorge on Mountain Brook in Enders State Forest in Granby and the well-known Tariffville Gorge on the Farmington, where white water draws international kayakers. In spite of these dramatic high-lights, most of our landscape has a gentle and domestic look. This appearance belies its geologic origins, which can be summed up as "crunch, tear and scrape".

CRUNCH: One of the things that makes Geology an Outstanding Resource Value in our Study Area is the fact that within the ten towns, we contain a billion years of geologic history. According to former State Geologist Ralph Lewis, that's a very long time span for such a small area. The very oldest bedrock of our Study Area, at a billion years old, lies in western Hartland and is a piece of Proto-North America. In the far distant past, the Proto-North American continent and the African continent were separated by the ancient Iapetus Sea. Offshore from Proto-North America lay the Shelburne Volcanic Island Arc. About 500 million years ago the two continents began to converge. Eventually they crushed and metamorphosed the volcanic island arc, squeezed out the ancient sea,



and forced sea bottom sediments up over the edge of Proto-North America, leaving a bit of Proto-North American bedrock in northwestern Hartland uncovered. Today, according to Ralph Lewis, "The former eastern margin of North America is represented by the billion year old gneisses and schists to the west of Cameron's line. Remnants of the Iapetus Ocean in the form of metamorphosed deep ocean sediments and a portion of the Shelburne Volcanic Island Arc under-

the continents were shifting again as North America and Africa began to separate. Rifts developed in the earth's crust. The actual tear that ultimately separated the two continents developed into the Atlantic Ocean, but a number of other less significant rifts also formed, including the Hartford Basin. There, some tears in the crust of the earth were deep enough to allow lava to flow out. In some places it flowed out under the earth's surface and cooled underground. This is how the Barndoor Hills in Granby and Onion Mountain in Simsbury and Canton, made of a kind of traprock, diabase, were formed. The softer material above and around the diabase has since eroded, leaving these landscape features we enjoy today. In some other places where rifts developed, the magma flowed across the land's surface, over sedimentary material that had eroded from the mountains formed during the "Crunch" phase. This magma hardened into the basalt, another type of traprock, that makes up Penwood and Talcott Mountains.

SCRAPE: "Scrape" sums up the effects of glaciation on our landscape. Most of the glacial deposits in Connecticut result from the Wisconsinian glaciation between 26,000 and 15,000 years ago, although two ages of glacial till indicate that Connecticut has undergone at least

two periods of glaciation. As thick sheets of ice slowly ground their way over the land from the north, they scraped up soil and rock in their paths, carrying the material along in the ice. When the glaciers began to melt, a mixture of accumulated debris was left behind. That unsorted material is called till. Somewhere in your town you will find till. When you dig in it, you find rocks of various sizes, along with sand and gravel. A common feature of our area's uplands, till is one reason that many New England farmers abandoned Connecticut farms to travel to the Midwest where soils are much better.

In what might seem like a contradiction, the glaciers also provided some of our towns excellent soil for farming, a very valuable natural resource. As the glaciers melted, glacial debris blocked the flow of watercourses including the Farmington River. Glacial debris in the Farmington area caused the river's water to back up, forming glacial Lake Farmington on the west side of the Talcott Mountain ridgeline. Silt and sand settled out of the melt water and eventually became the basis of the alluvial soils of the Farmington Valley. On the east side of the ridge, melt water that formed glacial Lake Hitchcock carried sediments which are the basis of the excellent soils of the Central Valley, including prime farmland soils in Bloomfield and Windsor. The international tobacco trade that was a major Connecticut export business for many years was possible because of these alluvial soils.

The geologic resources of the Wild & Scenic Study Area not only include soils that are valuable for growing food and ridges that offer both refuges for wildlife and open space for recreation but also include the sand and gravel aquifers that are the source of much of our area's drinking water. Over the years, geologic resources have been important to our communities in many other ways. Some examples include sand and gravel operations in Farmington, a traprock quarry in East Granby and brownstone quarries in Simsbury which provided building materials for the Belden Building (Town Hall today).

One of the responsibilities of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee is to develop an advisory Management Plan with protection goals, priorities and protection tools to conserve and enhance the orvs, including Geology. For geology, protection priorities include protecting agricultural soils and local farms, protecting drinking water aquifers, protecting significant and diverse geologic features and planning for a changing, dynamic river. Some of these priorities are already being addressed by town and state regulations, by purchase of conservation easements to protect working farms and by acquisition of open space. For more discussion on what might be done to safeguard important geologic resources, see the advisory Management Plan on the Wild & Scenic Study website at: www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

Page 2



We're Going to Congress!

And we're working hard to make it happen this coming summer!

It is almost three years since the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee began the process of seeking a Partnership Wild & Scenic designation for these two high quality watercourses with very special attributes that make them great assets to the ten towns through which they run. The Committee has determined that there are five Outstanding Resources Values (Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Landscape and Recreation), any one of which would make the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook eligible for designation.

The Committee has worked hard to inform town governments, local other organizations and the people of the towns about what a Wild & Scenic designation would mean for their communities. A number of organizations and individuals have already written letters to the Committee supporting the designation, as have some of the ten towns. Gathering endorsements is one project in which Committee members are engaged because without the support of the town governments and the people they represent, the Congress and the Senate of the United States will not vote to designate our watercourses as Partnership Wild & Scenic. Public support makes the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook suitable for designation.

The Committee, and especially Joyce Kennedy Raymes, our National Park Service Study Coordinator, are also busy putting together the advisory Management Plan for the lower Farm-

ington and Salmon Brook. The Management Plan, which will accompany a Study Report, will provide guidance for protecting the Outstanding Resources Values which make the two watercourses eligible for designation.

While the documentation of the Outstanding Resource Values is based on science, the process of getting a designation is a political one. Congressman Chris Murphy, whose office has been immensely helpful in dealing with a number of Wild & Scenic related questions, will put together a bill to go before Congress this summer. That means that all our work must be completed by April and turned in to him.

We've relied on help and support from many sources, including the staff and elected officials, leaders of the ten towns involved in the study, local organizations, our representatives to the Connecticut legislature, our legislators at the Federal level (Congressmen Chris Murphy and John Larson, and Senators Lieberman and Dodd), Jamie Fosburgh from the Boston office of the National Park Service, and of course, all those Study Committee members who have come to meetings, attended public events and talked to visitors, written articles, produced posters and videos, provided refreshments, buttonholed friends and talked about the project, put personal plans on hold to work on the Committee, and most likely done many other unrecognized things to help. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all, and look forward to the benefits of having our watercourses become part of the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Sally Rieger, *Chair of the Study Committee*

Featured Town: Burlington

The first inhabitants of present-day Burlington were members of the Tuxis Indian Tribe. The first English settlers of Connecticut arrived in 1636. In 1640, John Haynes, governor of Connecticut, negotiated on behalf of the settlers a purchase from the Tuxis Indians of a large tract of land west of Hartford. The newly acquired land was renamed Tuxis Plantation and in 1645 was incorporated as the Town of Farmington. The original land area of Farmington included the present-day towns of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, Plainville, Southington and parts of other towns.

Disagreement between two Bristol parishes led to a split and in 1806 the General Assembly allowed the Parish of West Britain to establish itself as the Town of Burlington. Although America

was independent from Great Britain for three decades, tradition held that the new name for West Britain be selected by the General Assembly to honor England's 3rd Earl of Burlington.

While most 19th century Burlington residents engaged in farming, several small industries were established, utilizing the water power of Burlington's numerous brooks and streams. Burlington's small mills and manufactories produced a wide variety of products, such as cider brandy, flintlock muskets, wooden shingles, mantel clocks, satinets, carriages, coffins, needles and charcoal. Burlington's numerous natural resources were harvested, including copper from an ore deposit which straddles the Bristol/Burlington border, granite for building, chestnut for railroad ties and other building materials. In winter

even ice was harvested.

Today the Town of Burlington is a rural combination of forest, watershed land and unique neighborhoods.

Burlington is home to Sessions Woods, a 772-acre wildlife management and learning center that boasts three hiking trails with access to the Tuxis Trail. The Burlington Land Trust dedicates its efforts to preserving the natural resources of the town including over 30 miles of the Blue-Blazed Tuxis Trail. The Farmington River Watershed Association keeps watch over our section of the Farmington River and its banks. The Farmington Valley Greenway's "Rails-to-Trails" multi-use path runs along side the Farmington and connects to Collinsville to the north and Unionville to the east.

by Paul Rochford

Hartland

ends of Connecticut, highest incorporated towns, we have the oldest Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic, dates back a billion years, and the glacial ice

half a century ago, yet we are not immune from today's pressures of development. Open space lands make up over 75% of Hartland, owned primarily by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In 1981, after leasing the Gaylord House for 50 years to the town, the MDC transferred it to the Hartland Historical Society, and after many years of work, in 1989, it was dedicated as a meeting place and museum. In a 2006 town-wide survey, access to natural resources was a high priority and a land trust was supported by the majority of respondents. With the help of a grant from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) the Hartland Land Trust was formed with a mission to conserve and manage significant lands.

Within our 22,300 acres of land, Hartland possesses a significant network of streams, rivers and waterways. Our water quality is outstanding and supplied to over 400,000 Hartford county residents. We are fortunate to be a dual Wild & Scenic corridor town, participating in both the 1994 National Wild & Scenic "Partnership River" designation and the current Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study. The headwaters of the West Branch of the Salmon Brook originate in East Hartland and flow into the Lower Farmington River. Hartland's extensive forest system provides exceptional protection for the waterways and both Upper and Lower Wild & Scenic are supported in our Plan of Conservation and Development.

Our legendary forefathers eloquently write of Hartland as "this little strip of earth we affectionately call, This Land of Ours, and we foresee we will continue to be one of the most beautiful small towns not only in the State of Connecticut, but in the USA".

By Sue Murray

Sources:
Hartland Natural Resource Inventory
Hartland Plan of Conservation and Development
History of Hartland, Stanley A. Ransom
The Gaines Notes, Hartland Historical Society
The Paul Crunden Journal, Hartland Historical Society



Meet the Committee Members

Sue Murray ~ Hartland

Born and raised in NY, Sue spent a memorable year abroad in a high school work/study program. She received her BA degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado, and married a college classmate, Don, and relocated to his hometown of Hartland.



Sue is an all season's person, treasuring her organic vegetable and winter hardy cactus gardens, and thriving on athletic activities.

She has been a Materials Manager for over twenty-five years, at Sorenson Lighted Controls, Inc, headquartered in Hartford, a leading indicator light

manufacturer with integrated LED technology.

Sue's strong environmental commitment has driven her to pilot successful green programs at her workplace and locally by her work on Hartland's Natural Resource Inventory and Plan of Conservation and Development, as well as her participation on the Hartland Land Trust Board and the Lower Farmington River/ Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee.

Kathy Dunn ~ East Hartland

Kathy Dunn is a resident of East Hartland and a former board member of the Hartland Land Trust. She serves as the Associate Director of the Middle School at the Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, CT where she also teaches French.

Kathy is a canoe, alpine and nordic skier, and a hiker and camper so conservation efforts are of great interest to her. She works with students daily to cultivate their love of the outdoors and to develop their ability to organize and to make a difference in the world around them.



Paul Rochford ~ Burlington



Paul Rochford is one of two Burlington representatives on the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. He is also president of the Burlington Land Trust and a member of Burlington's Conservation Commission. Paul moved to Connecticut in 1985 from Queens, New York. He credits his conserva-

tion "bona fides" to experiencing the contrast of close quarter living in New York to the Farmington Valley's seemingly abundant forest and trails. "I was immediately taken with the Blue Trail system", says Rochford. "A friend from work took me out on the Tuxis Trail and I instinctively saw the value in preserving this resource."

Paul has lived in Burlington since 1996 with his wife and three children.

Sarah Hincks ~ Burlington

Sarah has been on the Board of Directors of the Farmington River Watershed Association since 1997 and is the FRWA representative to the Study Committee. A resident of Burlington, Sarah was Executive Director of the

Quinnipiac River Watershed Association from 1991 to 1996. Sarah received her Masters in 2006 from Antioch New England's Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program. She spends a lot of time hiking and biking and is a watershed watchdog, as well as chairing the fund raising committee for FRWA.



Tom Small ~ Burlington

Tom Small is a long time Burlington resident. He is an avid hiker and fly fisherman. Tom serves on the board of the Burlington Land Trust.

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org

Community Farm of Simsbury
Granby Land Trust
Holcomb Farm Learning Center
McLean Game Refuge
Roaring Brook Nature Center
Salmon Brook Watershed Association
Simsbury Land Trust
Tariffville Village Association
Wintbury Land Trust
Keep the Woods



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Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study

About the Study Committee

The Study Committee's membership includes locally appointed representatives from each town in the study area, and representatives from The Stanley Works, CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), National Park Service, the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), the Tariffville Village Association (TVVA), Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), Pequabuck River Watershed Association (PRWA), and the Salmon Brook Watershed Association (SBWA).

Avon:

Diane Field*-Riparian Landowner
Harry Spring*-Former Inland Wetlands Commissioner
Rob House-Conservationist

Bloomfield:

Paula Jones*-Conservationist
Kevin Gough*-Conservationist

Burlington:

Paul Rochford*-Burlington Land Trust
Thomas Small*-Burlington Land Trust

Canton:

Cynthia Griggs-Conservationist
David Left*-Author, Former Deputy Commissioner of DEP

East Granby:

Ian Clark*-East Granby Land Trust
Mike Krammen*-Engineer

Farmington:

Walter Sargent*-Executive Director, Farmington Land Trust
Larry Schlegel*-Angler
Josef Treggor-Ecologist/Educator, MERA

Granby:

Carolyn Flint*-Conservation Commission
Eric Lukingbeal*-Land-use attorney, Wetlands Commission member

Hartland:

Sue Murray*-Hartland Plan of C&D Committee, Hartland Land Trust
Kathy Dunn*-Hartland Land Trust

Simsbury:

Sally Rieger*-Simsbury Land Trust, FRWA Volunteer
Margery Winters*-Simsbury Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission
Suzanne Battos-Conservationist

Windor:

Frank Davis*-Chair, Conservation Commission, Riparian Landowner
Betsy Conger-Loomis Chafee School Science Dept.
Terry Langevin-Friends of Northwest Park Board Member
Melissa Vanek-Environmental/Science Educator
The Stanley Works:
Kurt Link*-Lean, Productivity & Facilities Mgr., TSW

FRWA:

Sarah Hinks*-FRWA Board, Volunteer
Eileen Fielding*-FRWA Executive Director
Aimee Petras*-FRWA Staff

CFPA:

Eric Hammerling*-Executive Director

TVVA:

Wanda Colman-Member, Photographer

SBWA:

David Toli*-SBWA Board

PRWA:

Mary Moulton-PRWA President

CT DEP:

Susan Peterson*

Maryann Nusom Haverstock*

National Park Service:

Jamie Fosburgh-Rivers Program Manager
Joyce Kennedy Raymes-Study Coordinator

* Officially Appointed

Lower Farmington River Salmon Brook *Wild and Scenic Study*



The Wild



The Scenic



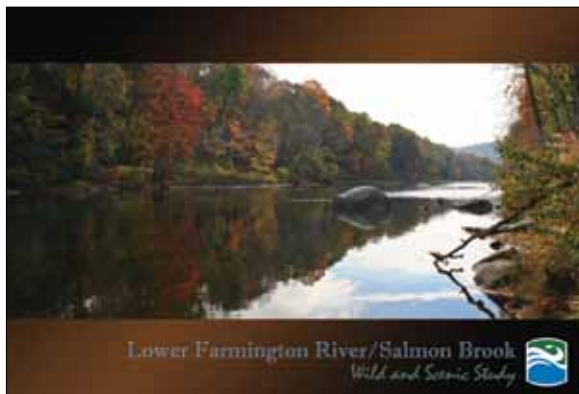
The Designation

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is a partnership of town representatives, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders who are gathering evidence and developing support for a National Park Service "Wild & Scenic" river designation. This designation recognizes the outstanding resource values of the very best rivers in the United States. Partnership "Wild and Scenic" status provides funding for river conservation while keeping river management in the hands of town government. Your support for designation helps ensure the protection and enhancement of these waterways.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR UPCOMING SPRING FORUMS AND VISIT OUR WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Did You Know That Your River Is "One of the Nation's Best"?

A Wild & Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook will help protect their outstanding resource values (ORV). What makes them so special?

Geology: The geology of our area is highly diverse. It has a variety of geological features such as traprock ridges, river gorges and prime agricultural soils, and also has features from a wide span of geological time. Geology has been important in determining human settlement patterns and land uses and also supports a wonderful diversity of plant and animal communities.

Water Quality: Salmon Brook, "one of the last true cold water fisheries in Connecticut" has excellent water quality. The Lower Farmington River has very high water quality for most of its length. High water quality supports biodiversity, recreation and the cultural landscape.

Biodiversity: For six of our towns, the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project has developed a solid data base on unique species and special natural communities in the river corridor. The area supports regionally and globally rare species and communities of plants and animals. There will be further research in the four towns of Burlington, Hartland, Bloomfield and Windsor, which were not included in the Biodiversity Project.

Cultural Landscape: Our towns have a rich history. The Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors hold important evidence of Native American settlements, trading sites, and agricultural fields predating European arrival. Colonial history and the development of industry in New England are closely connected to both Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River, as are present day farms, concert venues, and various river-related businesses.

Recreation: The rivers and their scenic corridors provide many, varied recreational opportunities. Fishing, paddling, swimming, in the towns' riverside parks, hiking, boating and fishing along the Rail-to-Trails paths are just some of the activities the public enjoys.

Help preserve these wonderful assets by supporting a Wild & Scenic designation. For more information visit our websites at:

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org
www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org

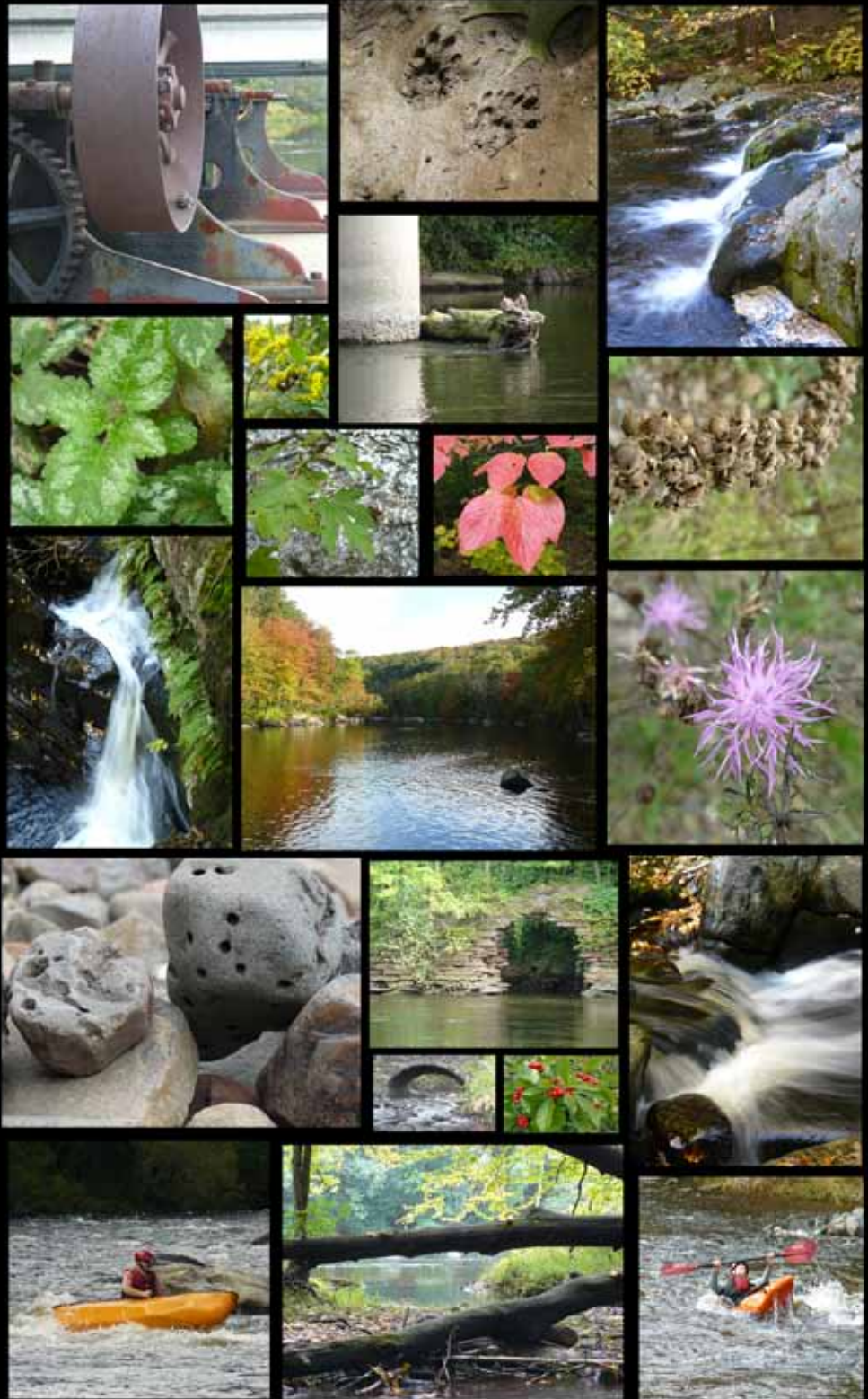


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Farmington River Watershed

2008 Wild and Scenic Study



PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

March 7, 2008

Mr. Michael Clark, Chair
Farmington Town Council
18 Morgan Place
Unionville, CT 06085

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee would like to update you on our activities, and we ask that you please share this letter with your Council Members. In April, the Study Committee – including representatives from 10 Farmington Valley towns, the National Park Service, the Farmington River and Salmon Brook Watershed Associations, and others – began a Congressionally authorized feasibility study on the potential designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as “Wild & Scenic.” Once again we thank your town for appointing community members to represent Farmington in this effort!

As you may know, the process undertaken by the Study Committee has three components:

- Determining if the river is eligible for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic Rivers system by demonstrating it has cultural, natural, or recreational values of regional or national significance (these are called “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” or ORV’s);
- Determining if the river is suitable for Wild & Scenic designation by substantiating local support and commitment to designation; and
- Developing a river Management Plan with local support that details the strategy for future protection of the area’s outstanding values.

Below is a summary of the activities that have been ongoing in these three areas:

Eligibility

Thus far, the Study Committee has considered a variety of ORV’s of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Ken Feder and Marc Banks, local archeologists with expertise in Native American history and culture, have spoken to the committee about various sites along the river where artifacts such as spear points, arrow heads and animal bones indicate that as long ago as 10,000 years, Native Americans traded and camped along the river. Hank Gruner, the Interim Museum Director of the Children’s Museum, also presented a program to the Study Committee based on the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. Data from the Project indicates that the lower Farmington harbors a regionally important diversity of freshwater mussels, that its floodplain is the site of the major population of the plant, starry campton, in New England and that the river corridor is an important migratory bird route. Also, Salmon Brook has been recognized as having exceptionally good water quality. The Study Committee has noted the recreational value of the river and of Salmon Brook, both of which are important resources for fishing. Additionally, boating is important on the lower Farmington, both on flat water sections and in the Tariffville Gorge, which has been the site of Olympic kayak trials.

Although much information is available about the archeological, biological and recreational resources of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook, there is a need for further research in some areas, so the Study Committee will be making and reviewing requests for proposals (RPP’s) for research projects to fill in gaps. Of course, the

committee will need to prioritize the proposals submitted in order to use the federally allocated funds available for the studies effectively. One proposal currently in consideration is to fill some of the gaps in knowledge on Native American sites between Tariffville Gorge and the confluence of the Farmington River and the Connecticut River in Windsor and along Salmon Brook. Another proposal to be considered is for aerial photography of the river corridor, which would enable the Study Committee to determine the status of the vegetative buffer along the river, a healthy buffer being vital to water quality. A third area needing study is to measure the economic benefits of recreational use of the river. An economic study of the Upper Farmington River documented a \$9.5 million total economic benefit to the 5 towns stretching from Canton to Colebrook, and we believe the economic benefit to the 10 towns involved with this Study is likely quite considerable, but it is currently unknown.

Suitability

Local community understanding and support for a potential Wild & Scenic designation is essential to achieving Congressional approval of the designation. The Outreach and Education Subcommittee of the Study Committee has started working on how best to provide information on a regular basis to town officials, businesses, and the public at large, and expects to be very active starting this fall. The Subcommittee is also charged with listening to and addressing any questions or concerns about the Wild & Scenic program and its implications for the towns involved that may arise during this Study.

Management Plan

Determining and understanding the resources that the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook offer is only one part of the Wild and Scenic feasibility study. Under the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program, a river management and protection plan needs to be developed before the final application for the designation is made to Congress. If Congress should designate the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic, the management plan for them will be comparable to the one in place for the upper Farmington River. A guiding principle of the Management Plan is that private landowners along the river will continue to be the primary stewards of their property, that towns will continue to be the regulators of land use along the river, and that there will be no federal ownership of land as a result of the Wild & Scenic designation. The Management and Protection Plan Subcommittee of the Study Committee is just beginning its work.

More information about the feasibility study for designating the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic rivers can be found at www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org. Also, as the Chairman of the Study Committee, I want to invite you to contact me directly via phone at 658-7317 or e-mail at dfrandsr@aol.com if you should have any immediate questions or concerns. Of course, you can also contact your town representatives (names and contact information) and/or Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association (658-4442, ex. 205).

Best regards,

Walter L. Sargent
Larry Schlegel

Farmington Representatives
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee

Please Join Us!

Tell Your Friends!



...cordially invites you to attend a

Fall Open House

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is well underway. We want to share our Study information with you, and

we need your input!

Come and talk with Committee members and resource experts who have worked for three years to bring you the most relevant information about the Wild and Scenic River designation.

Tell us what you think about our findings, draft management plan, and the benefits of Wild & Scenic designation for your town.

Open House dates and locations:

Canton Community Center – 40 Dryer Ave, Collinsville
Thursday, October 15 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

East Granby Community Center – 9 Center St, East Granby
Thursday, October 29 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

Farmington Library – 6 Monteith Dr, Farmington
Thursday, November 5 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

Refreshments will be served

**These forums are an excellent opportunity
to comment before the Study concludes!**

For more information and to download our existing reports please visit:
www.lowerfarmington.org or www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Media Alert
August 6, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Joyce Kennedy Raymes
860.658.4442 x.203/ 860.707.5765 or
Sally Rieger, 860/658-7317

Also see: Photo Attachment with individuals in photo from left to right:
Eric Hammerling/Executive Director Connecticut Forest & Park Assoc., Joyce Kennedy Raymes/ Wild & Scenic (W&S) Study Coordinator, Susan Frechette/ DEP Deputy Commissioner, Rep. Clark Chapin, Rep. Ruth Fahrbach, Rep. Linda Schofield, Rep. Richard Ferrari, Governor Jodi Rell, Josef Treggor/W&S Study Committee-Farmington, Sally Rieger/W&S Study Chair-Simsbury, Will Violette/W&S Intern-Granby, Eileen Fielding/Executive Director Farmington River Watershed Assoc. (FRWA), Sarah Hincks/W&S Study Committee-FRWA, Harry Spring/W&S Study Committee-Avon

Connecticut Supports Wild and Scenic Designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook

On May 7, 2008, H.B. 05143 was signed into law by Governor Jodi Rell. The bill expresses the State of Connecticut's support of a federal Wild and Scenic designation for the lower Farmington River and its tributary, Salmon Brook. The bill also commits the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to "cooperate with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such designation and to implement any management plan developed in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act." A federal Wild and Scenic designation for the streams would recognize their outstanding resource values, afford them some extra legal protections and provide annual federal funding to be used in the river towns for river-related projects.

Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, Representative Demetrios Giannaros, Representative Richard Ferrari, Representative Dick Roy, and Representative Linda Schofield played key roles in shepherding the bill through the state legislature. Wild and Scenic Study Committee members became regular visitors at the state Capitol as they met with representatives and senators from the ten Wild and Scenic Study towns, Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor. In testimony before the Environment Committee, Sally Rieger, chair of the

Wild and Scenic Study Committee said, "Many people feel, as I do, that it is "their" river, their special place, and want to see it healthy, for themselves, their children and grandchildren and for the citizens of their towns." There were a total of 17 legislators representing all ten towns who expressed their support for the bill, and the bill passed unanimously.

"In our region, the Farmington River has value that is truly priceless. This legislation is the best opportunity imaginable to protect the river and an opportunity that in years to come will be looked back on with great pride. This designation will help sustain our region's quality of life, quality of water, quantity of water, recreational opportunities and biodiversity," said Sarah Hincks, Chair of the Farmington River Watershed Association and representative to the Wild & Scenic Study Committee.

If the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook receive a federal Wild and Scenic designation, they will join the Upper Farmington River and the Eightmile River as Connecticut's only Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Upper Farmington River was designated in 1994 and the Eightmile River was designated in 2008. The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee is currently meeting with town officials and land use boards and commissions to discuss the benefits of the Wild and Scenic designation and to gather local input for an advisory management plan that the Study Committee hopes to complete in draft form late this fall. The Study Committee is also planning three public forums for spring, 2009, and hopes to submit the materials for the Wild and Scenic designation to the U. S. Congress in 2009 or 2010.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wild & Scenic feasibility study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, feel free to contact Study Chair, Sally Rieger at 658-7317 or Study Coordinator, Joyce Kennedy Raymes at 658-4442, extension 203. You can also visit the website established to provide the public with ongoing opportunities to understand and give input to the Wild & Scenic Study, www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org.

<http://www.courant.com/community/news/fv/hc-ctfarriver0822.artaug22,0,4641833.story>

Hartford (CT) Courant
Friday, August 22, 2008

'Wild And Scenic River'
Support Grows For 'Wild And Scenic River' Effort
By REGINE LABOSSIERE

Courant Staff Writer

A group working to preserve Farmington Valley waterways is getting strong support from area agencies and officials in its quest to place most of the Farmington River under federal protection.

The coalition of public and private organizations is seeking the federal designation "Wild and Scenic River" for 65 miles of the lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook tributary. The designation would ensure annual funding through the National Park Service to support river restoration, environmental education, land protection and other community-based environmental projects. With the designation, the lower region would join 14 miles of the upper Farmington River named wild and scenic in 1994.

But before the waterways can be included, the group of watershed associations, environmental agencies and representatives from 10 Farmington Valley towns must conduct a costly and exhaustive study and present the results to Congress, said Eileen Fielding, executive director of the Farmington River Watershed Association.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee has been pleading its cause and gaining support.

In 2006, the federal government approved the study as well as \$350,000 in grants to be paid out over three to five years. The group came together last year to begin the study and started searching for more aid. In July, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving gave \$156,000 to the Farmington River Watershed Association to help with the study. This month, Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed a bill calling for the commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection to work with federal, state and local agencies to get the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook federally designated.

"That's of great help when ultimately we go before Congress to ask for the designation. Congress really likes to see the state is behind the idea," Fielding said of Rell's action.

The federal money, she said, should be enough to conduct a study on the 65 miles of river that flow through public and private land in Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor. Portions of the river in Windsor and the Collinsville section of Canton are not included because they have dams. Also, the study does not include the Massachusetts section of the river.

"The study budget is adequate, but modest," Fielding said. "What the Hartford Foundation grant has enabled us to do is look more thoroughly at issues."

Those include creating vegetation buffers to decrease storm-water pollution and developing a management plan for the dwarf wedge mussel, an endangered freshwater mussel that lives in a stretch of the river in Avon and Simsbury. The Hartford Foundation's grant is to be paid out over three years.

"We're very interested in projects that improve the quality of life in the region, and taking good care of natural resources is one of the ways to do

that," said Sharon O'Meara, senior program officer at the Hartford Foundation.

With a watershed of 609 square miles, the Farmington River is the most fished river in the state, according to the DEP. It also provides drinking water for more than 600,000 people.

The Farmington River Watershed Association has been working for five years to start the designation process. The nonprofit organization began by getting support from the towns and working with the state's federal representatives to introduce legislative bills, leading to the 2006 approval of the study. Local governments also will benefit from the study, said Joyce Kennedy Raymes, the study coordinator from the National Park Service. She said towns will learn what is living, growing and flowing in their areas and the information can be used for planning, development and educational purposes.

"The towns are really interested in the kinds of things that we'll be learning," Kennedy Raymes said. "It's pretty much a win-win situation."

Contact Régine Labossière at rlabossiere@courant.com

Lower Farmington River Up for Wild and Scenic Status

HARTFORD, Connecticut, May 20, 2008 (ENS) - Governor M. Jodi Rell has signed a bill that seeks to preserve the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as open space under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

"Our goal is to have the federal government designate the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook a Wild and Scenic River," Governor Rell said. "Under this bill, our Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection commissioner will work with federal, state and local agencies to obtain that designation.

The governor said the measure represents a commitment by the state of Connecticut to preserve this section of the river from development projects that pose a threat to the future enjoyment of the river. The legislation takes effect on October 1, 2008.



Part of the Lower Farmington River in its natural state (Photo courtesy [National Park Service](#))

"This is great news for the towns that border the river and all the communities in the Farmington River Region," Governor Rell said. "Our rivers are environmental treasures that provide us with hours of fishing, boating and simple relaxation. We must do everything in our power to preserve them, not only for ourselves, but for future generations."

In 1994, 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River, stretching from Colebrook to Canton, was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system with an act of Congress.

In the fall of 2003, the Farmington River Watershed Association began an effort to have the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook considered for this distinction.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook run through 10 towns - Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor.

In Congress, the Connecticut delegation began introducing bills authorizing the study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic River in 2004.

ieberman introduced a bill that passed the Senate in late the House passed a companion bill. On November 27, d into law by President George W. Bush.

feasibility study that involves volunteers from the 10 h into areas of interest, and will work with the National

Park Service to develop a management plan to help protect the outstanding natural, recreational, and/or cultural values of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Meanwhile, according to the state law just passed, the state of Connecticut will not approve any development that could degrade the area and keep it from designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

"This new law is good news for all of those who enjoy the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook," said State Representative Kevin Witkos, a Republican who represents Canton, one of the 10 towns through which these waterways run. "This will ensure that this pristine natural resource will remain a destination for the many anglers, kayakers and others who utilize these waterways."

People enjoy the river and the brook for paddling, hiking at Tunxis State Forest and picnicking at Granbrook Park. Salmon Brook is known for its free flowing water and native brook trout populations. The West Branch of the river is inhabited by trout, river otters and bald eagles.

The state legislation also requires the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to implement any management plan developed pursuant to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects free-flowing rivers with important scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or similar values. It designates specific rivers for inclusion and prescribes the methods and standards by which additional rivers may be added.

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Special Designation for Farmington River and Salmon Brook Brings National Recognition



In 1994, 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River – stretching from Colebrook to Canton – were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, which ushered in resources for river protection and funding benefits. In April 2007, local volunteers and organizations formed the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee and began collaborative efforts to bring this National Park Service designation to these waterways.

To be considered "Wild and Scenic" under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river must have at least one outstanding resource value, be it natural, cultural or recreational. Current research projects, funded by the National Park Service and conducted by the Study Committee, have helped establish five areas in which the lower Farmington

River and Salmon Brook meet this standard: geology, water quality, biodiversity, the cultural landscape and recreation.

Achieving the Wild and Scenic designation would help ensure steady funding for local projects to protect and enhance these streams. An advisory management plan, developed by



the Study Committee, would guide these and other river-related conservation efforts. Under the management plan, private landowners would continue to be the primary stewards of their property and towns would continue to be responsible for regulating land use along the river.

Please join us at our upcoming Open House to learn more about what a Wild and Scenic designation means for you and your town.



Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

860.658.4442 Ext. 203

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Farmington River Plan To Be Presented Next Week

- **Topics**
- Museum Dioramas
- Government
- Farmington (Hartford, Connecticut)

[See more topics »](#)

4:08 p.m. EDT, October 20, 2009

EAST GRANBY — The management plan for designating the rest of the Farmington River as wild and scenic, which qualifies a waterway for federal funding for water management, will be presented at an open house at the [East Granby](#) Community Center on Oct. 29.

The upper [Farmington](#) River, which runs from the [Massachusetts](#) border to the [Canton](#)-New Hartford line, was designated a wild and scenic area in 1994. In 2007 Congress approved the rest of the river, which runs from Canton to Windsor, for a feasibility study for the same designation.

During the past two years The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee, which consists of representatives of towns along the river, watershed groups and property owners, have prepared a management plan. After response by citizens, this plan will be sent to Congress as part of the process of designating the lower river with wild and scenic status.

The open house, which will include a presentation of the management plan and an opportunity for the public to respond, will run from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Another open house presenting the management plan will be held at the Farmington Public Library on Nov. 5, also from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

— Rinker Buck

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild and Scenic Study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2009

CONTACT: Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or
Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442 x.203

River Recreation Enhances Local Economy, Real Estate Market, Quality of Life

A recently completed study in ten towns of the lower Farmington watershed shows very strong support for a Wild and Scenic River designation for the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook. The study targeted residents, recreational river users and businesses. The study also showed that these river corridors are heavily used by local residents, adding to local quality of life and to real estate values.

The study was conducted by Dr. Ben Tyson, Dr. James Thorson and David Maliar, a graduate student, through the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at Central Connecticut State University, and was funded by the National Park Service. It is part of a larger, comprehensive study coordinated by the Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee, as a step in the 3- to 5-year process of obtaining National Wild and Scenic River status for these waterways. Its specific purpose was to investigate the "Use and Economic Importance of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook".

Conducted from May through October 2008, the project involved personal interviews, counts of people engaged in recreation at 30 locations along the river and brook, and mailed surveys. Based on the information obtained, the researchers estimate over 124,000 recreational visits to the watercourses or their corridors per year. This estimate was described as "very conservative" because it excludes early morning and evening hours and the months of November through April. Walking or jogging is apparently the most common pursuit along the river. Biking, dog walking, and paddling sports are also common.

About 73% of recreational users who responded strongly agree that the river or brook contributes a lot of beauty to the area, as do about 62% of the residents surveyed. Both groups look to a Wild and Scenic river designation as an "important" or "very important" way to preserve the beauty of the river/brook, to preserve open space and to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Economic Impact

Not surprisingly, the study showed that the amount of money that river recreation brings into the local economy is smaller than that of the Upper Farmington River (which was designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1994). Study Committee Chair Sally Rieger explains, "We know the Upper Farmington draws out-of-state fishermen as well as locals, and they spend on overnight accommodations, food, and fishing-related items. This has an economic significance of about 3.6 million dollars a year, according to a study similar to ours that was released in 2003. The corresponding figure for the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook is between 1.2 and 1.6 million. But," she added, "we need to look

at the effect of the kayakers who come to Tariffville Gorge, which is a significant economic impact. Study committee members familiar with the Gorge feel its

economic impact was underestimated."

Although the economic impact of the river is not as large as the Study Committee had hoped, it still has substantial economic importance. Local proprietor Sue Warner commented, "The vitality of the Farmington River is critical to Collinsville. The Farmington River attracts visitors from all over the state as well as New York and Massachusetts. Collinsville Canoe & Kayak depends on the clean waterway for hundreds of lessons and rentals every season. The town and our business would not thrive without the river."

Studying the relationship of real estate values to the presence of the river suggests that home buyers are willing to pay approximately \$14,000 extra to be a mile closer to the Farmington River/Salmon Brook. The watercourses are clearly amenities for which home buyers are willing to pay.

To be designated as "Wild & Scenic," a river must be shown to have at least one regionally or nationally outstanding resource value (ORV). The Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook far exceed this minimum. Five such values have been identified for the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook: Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, the Cultural Landscape and Recreation, and the volunteer Study Committee is currently compiling relevant information about all five. The Committee is comprised of locally appointed representatives from ten Farmington Valley towns, plus the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Salmon Brook Watershed Association, the CT DEP, The Stanley Works, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the National Park Service.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is a partnership of town representatives, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders who are gathering evidence and developing support for "Wild & Scenic" designation. Partnership "Wild and Scenic" status provides funding for river conservation while keeping river management in the hands of town governments. Local support for designation would help ensure the protection and enhancement of this local treasure for generations to come. Please visit our websites for more information: www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org or www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org or call Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442 x.203

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild and Scenic Study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2009

CONTACT: Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or
Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442
x.203

Wild & Scenic Study Committee Announces a Series of Community Forums

The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study committee invites you to any one of three Community Open Houses to be held this fall. The Open Houses will offer:

- information on the benefits of a Wild & Scenic designation
- a look at the special natural and cultural resources of the Wild & Scenic Study Area
- copies of the draft Management Plan
- the opportunity to have input into the advisory Management Plan for protecting those resources
- a chance to talk with the community volunteers who make up the Study Committee and to ask any questions you may have.

Please join the Study Committee on one of the following dates in a town nearby:

- **October 15 at the Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue**
- **October 29 at the East Granby Community Center, 9 Center Street**
- **November 5 at the Farmington Public Library, 6 Monteith Drive**

All Open Houses are scheduled from 5:00PM to 8:30PM. Refreshments will be served.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study brings together town representatives from Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders, who are gathering evidence and developing support for National Park Service designation of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook as "Wild & Scenic". The "Wild & Scenic" designation recognizes the outstanding resource values of the very best rivers in the United States. Under the New England Partnership model, "Wild & Scenic" status provides funding for river management while leaving river management in the hands of town governments. Your support of the Study and the designation helps ensure the protection and enhancement of this local treasure for our communities now and for generations to come.

What Does Partnership Wild & Scenic Mean?

A Partnership Wild & Scenic Designation Would Not:

- **Change land use regulations along the river.** Our ten towns would retain control of local land use along the river and brook. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act does not authorize the federal government to enact land use regulations for private lands along a designated river
- **Deprive landowners of their land.** The Partnership Wild & Scenic program was designed to respect private land ownership in the Northeast. When a river receives a Partnership Wild & Scenic River designation, the federal government actually loses its existing right to condemn land in the corridor. Nor can landowners be forced to sell their property.
- **Prevent recreational uses of the river such as fishing and paddling.** There is nothing in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act that requires a change in **fishing regulations**. The State of Connecticut will continue to be the regulatory authority. A benefit of a Wild & Scenic designation is that with the designation, some annual National Park Service funding that could be used to improve fish passage on the river. In regard to **paddling** and canoeing, the situation is similar. Because one of the ORVs for the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook is Recreation, National Park Service funding associated with a Wild & Scenic designation could be used to improve river access points for paddlers
- **Prevent Canton, Avon and Burlington from using their dams for hydropower.** Although the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act requires that designated rivers be free-flowing, segments of a river can be excluded from a Wild & Scenic designation. The lower Farmington already has an operating hydropower facility at Rainbow Dam in Windsor and that will be excluded from the designation.
- **Require funding from the town.** Towns don't pay anything for the Wild & Scenic Study or for the designation. If the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated Wild & Scenic, we can expect annual funding from the National Park Service that could be spent on a wide variety of local river-related projects.
- **Prevent the town from doing necessary projects near the river, such as bridge replacement.** If the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated Wild & Scenic, water resource projects that alter the flow of the river, or that are Federally funded, licensed or permitted would need to be reviewed by the National Park Service. The National Park Service would suggest changes to the project if the project were found to interfere with the flow of the river. Because the proposed bridge on Avon Old Farms Road was a concern to the Town of Avon, the National Park service reviewed the project and sent a letter to the town saying that the new bridge would be an improvement from the River's standpoint.
- **Impose new water quality standards on towns.** The Department of Environmental Protection in Connecticut currently enforces Federal Clean Water Act standards which include a "no degradation" requirement. The Farmington River is already held to a high standard by the DEP. The Study Committee has obtained a letter from the DEP stating that higher water quality standards would not result from a Wild & Scenic designation.

LAND USE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

LAND USE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



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Participant List

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Fred W. Jones

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John K. Hampton

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 Deputy First Selectman
 Town of Simsbury

Participant List

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MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE EXAMPLES

2008 Wild & Scenic Study Committee Calendar of Events

	Need Date/Seasonal	April	May	June	July	August
Avon		Environmental Fair-Thompson Brook School (5/18)				
Bloomfield	Drumming Event ?		<i>Diane</i>	ALT-Trails Day (6/8)		
	Farmers Market		Prosser Library book Sale (5/17)	<i>Harry</i>		
	Wintonbury Historical Society Sale					
Burlington				Johnny Cake Mt. Festival/Trails Day		
				<i>Paul Tom</i> (6/7)		
Canton						
	Collinsville Farmers Market					
	Roaring Brook Nature Center					
	CCK Events					
East Granby				150th Anniversary Celebration (6/6-8)		
				Mike, Ian		
Farmington		Farmington Clean-up Day/Garden Club (4/26)				
		Farmington LT Annual Mtg (4/17) <i>Joe/Walt</i>				
Granby	Holcomb Farm Events	SBWA Annual Meeting (4/10)	Memorial Day Parade (5/26)			G
	<i>Eric L.</i>	<i>Joyce</i>	<i>Carolyn</i>			
Hartland			Holcomb Farm Spring Festival (6/4)	HLT Annual meeting (6/2)		Firemans Carnival
			<i>Sally</i>			(7/30-8/2)
Simsbury	Learn to Row Day(FRRA)	W&S Event at River View (4/26)	Open House WPCF (5/10)	Eggstock (6/7)		Sue/Kathy
		<i>Sally, Joyce & others?</i>	<i>Sally, Joyce</i>	Field Notes (6/16)		
	Hublein Tower	Linda's Litter Lugging Day (4/12)		Chris Murphy Hike (6/8)		
		<i>Sally</i>		Simsbury Farmers Market (6/26)		
Tariffville		SLT Annual Dinner		Scenic River Day (6/28)		
Windsor		Simsbury Green Summit (4/22)	Shad Derby Festival (5/17)	Rainbow Fish Ladder Day (6/7)		
				<i>Kurt</i>		
	175th Anniversary					
	Fall Arts Fest					
	Columbus Day Chili Festival					
All Towns- Misc.				CT Trails Day (6/7)		
	Land Trust Events					
	Historical Society Events			Water Trails Celebration Day (6/14)		

Town Meetings Schedule

	Town Meetings			
		Town CEO	Board of Selectmen	More Meetings
			Town Council	
Avon			5/1/08 Town Council, Boards Invited	
			Harry, Jamie, Sally, Diane	
Bloomfield			1/15/08 Town council, TPZ, Wetlands	
		Kevin, Paula	Paula, Kevin, Sally, Joyce, Jamie	
Burlington		5/15/08 Kathy Zabel	5/27/08 Board of Selectmen	
		Paul, Sarah, Sally, Joyce	Paul, Sarah, Sally, Joyce	
Canton		3/20/08 Dick Barlow, Neil Pade	6/18/08BOS	3/19/09P&Z, CC and Wetlands
		David L., Sally	David, Joyce, Sally, Jamie	Sally, david, Cynthia, Joyce
East Granby		5/13/08 Jim Hayden, Gary Haynes	7/22/08 BOS	
		Ian, Mike, Sally, Joyce	Ian, Mike, Joyce	
Farmington		3/25/08 Kathy Eagen, Liz Dolphin	8/5/08 Town Council	
		Walter, Joyce, Sally, Eric, Larry		
Granby			4/21/08 Selectmen, all boards invited	
			Eric L., Carolyn, Harry, Joyce	
Hartland			11/10/08 all boards invited	
			Sue, Joyce, Kathy, Sally, Eileen?	
Simsbury		3/7/08 Mary Glassman	6/23/2008 Selectmen	CC 11/18/08
		Joyce, Sally, Margery	Sally, Eileen, Margery	Margery, Joyce
Windsor		6/2/08 Peter Sousa	8/4/08 Town Council	NW Park Annual Mtg
		Betsy, Terry, Frank, Sally, Joyce	Frank, Betsy, Terry, Sally, Joyce, Jamie	Terry
Farmington Valley Collaborative	6/19/08			
Meetings Complete				